

Message Text

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ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5696

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 8651

FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MASS XX CG

SUBJECT: SECURITY ASSISTANCE ORGANIZATIONS OVERSEAS

REF: STATE 201236

1. REFTEL (PARA 4) INFORMED EMBASSY THAT IN COUNTRIES SUCH AS ZAIRE, UP TO THREE MILITARY PERSONNEL MAY BE ASSIGNED TO PERFORM ACCOUNTING AND OTHER MANAGEMENT FUNCTIONS CONNECTED WITH SECURITY ASSISTANCE. SAME MESSAGE PROVIDES FOR ASSIGNMENT OF ADDITIONAL THREE PERSONNEL WHEN SPECIFICALLY REQUESTED BY CHIEF OF MISSION AS NECESSARY FOR EFFICIENT OPERATIONS.

2. ZAIRE, OF COURSE, IS NOT AMONG 15 DESIGNATED COUNTRIES WITH MAAG GROUPS CITED PARA 3 REFTEL. NONETHELESS, IN KEEPING WITH CURRENT EFFORTS TO IMPOSE LIMITATIONS WORLDWIDE, I HAVE REVIEWED STRENGTH OF US MILITARY MISSION TO ZAIRE (ZAMISH). AS RESULT OF NEW LEGISLATION, DOD HAS ISSUED GUIDELINES TO REDUCE ZAMISH STRENGTH FROM CURRENTLY AUTHORIZED TEN POSITIONS TO SIX MILITARY PERSONNEL. ALL OF THOSE SIX POSITIONS WILL BE REQUIRED TO MAINTAIN EFFECTIVENESS OF MISSION. WHILE EXACT COMPOSITION AND FUNCTIONS OF SIX-PERSON ZAMISH ARE STILL BEING DETERMINED, I CONSIDER SUCH STAFFING STRENGTH AS MINIMUM NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT MISSION'S RESPONSIBILITIES.

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LITIES.

3. COMBINED FY 77 FMS AND IMET PROGRAMS FOR ZAIRE HAVE BEEN INCREASED FROM TOTAL OF \$3.5 MILLION IN FY 75 TO CURRENT LEVEL OF \$30.5 MILLION. THERE HAVE BEEN NO COMMENSURATE INCREASES IN ZAMISH STAFFING. IT WILL BE DIFFICULT ENOUGH TO ADMINISTER CURRENT AND PROJECTED PROGRAMS WITH REDUCED STAFF OF SIX PERSONNEL;

TO TRY TO DO SO WITH ANY FEWER WOULD SERIOUSLY JEOPARDIZE ZAMISH'S ABILITY TO ACCOMPLISH EVEN ITS MINIMUM WORK REQUIREMENTS. THE IMET PROGRAM HERE IS THE SECOND LARGEST IN THE WORLD; THE FMS PROGRAM IS MADE PARTICULARLY TIME-CONSUMING BY LARGE NUMBER OF RELATIVELY SMALL PURCHASES, AND REQUIRES CONSTANT SURVEILLANCE. CURRENT REORGANIZATION OF ZAIRIAN ARMED FORCES, GIVEN ADDED URGENCY BY RECENT EVENTS AND POSSIBLE FUTURE DIFFICULTIES IN SHABA PROVINCE, MAY REQUIRE MAJOR RESTRUCTURING OF LONG-RANGE FMS AND IMET PROGRAMS. UNSOPHISTICATED ENVIRONMENT IN ZAIRE REQUIRES ZAMISH TO PERFORM MANY TASKS NORMALLY ACCOMPLISHED BY THE HOST COUNTRY. MOST BUSINESS MUST BE CONDUCTED ON A TIME-CONSUMING FACE-TO-FACE BASIS, WITH THE CUMBERSOME ZAIRIAN BUREAUCRACY DEMANDING AN INORDINATE NUMBER OF FOLLOW-THROUGH ACTIONS.

4. IN LIGHT OF ABOVE CONSIDERATIONS, I STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT ZAMISH BE MAINTAINED AT MINIMUM SIX-MEMBER STRENGTH.
CUTLER

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